



**Final Environmental Assessment
City of Spokane (Spokane Street Department)
Equipment Shed
Spokane County, Washington
FEMA-1825-DR-WA (Public Assistance)**

April 18, 2012



FEMA

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Federal Emergency Management Agency – Region X
130 228th Street Southwest
Bothell, Washington 98201-9796

Photo: Spokane Street Department "Ranch Facility" Maintenance Yard. Proposed Equipment Shed Location Shown in Red.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Terms Used in this Document	ii
Acronyms Used in this Document	iii
Introduction.....	1
Purpose and Need for Action	3
Alternatives Analysis, Affected Environment, Environmental Consequences	4
Historic, Archaeological and Cultural Resources	6
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice (EO 12898).....	7
Floodplains (EO 11988) and Wetlands (EO 11990).....	7
Cumulative Impacts	8
Public Involvement	8
List of Preparers, Agencies and Persons Consulted & References.....	9
Appendices	
Appendix A Figures	
Appendix B SHPO Concurrence Letter	
Appendix C Project Conditions and Conservation Measures	
Appendix D Public Notice	

TERMS USED IN THIS DOCUMENT

Alternate Project – if an applicant determines that the public welfare would not be best served by restoring a damaged facility or its function using FEMA funds, the applicant may apply to FEMA to use eligible disaster funds for other purposes (i.e. Alternate Projects). Examples of Alternate Projects include repair or expansion of other public facilities, purchase of capital equipment, or construction of new public facilities.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) – environmental protection practices applied to help ensure that projects are conducted in an environmentally responsible manner.

Pole Building – (also known as pole framing or pole barn) is a simple building technique that uses large poles (or squared off posts) as vertical structural members and strong girts (a horizontal structural member) parallel to the floor at right angles to the posts as the principle structural skeleton. Unlike other building methods, the poles, girts, and rafters can be set up by a crew of a few people. (excerpt from Wikipedia).

ACRONYMS USED IN THIS DOCUMENT

APE	Area of Potential Effect
BMP	best management practice
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DAHP	(Washington State) Department of Archaeological and Historic Preservation
EA	environmental assessment
EIS	environmental impact statement
EO	(Presidential) Executive Order
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer

The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1973 (Stafford Act), as amended, provides federal assistance programs for both public and private losses sustained in disasters. FEMA provides assistance to private citizens, public entities, and non-profit groups following declared disasters. The City of Spokane, Street Department (City) applied, through the Washington State Emergency Management Division (EMD), to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for funding of an Alternate Project to construct an equipment shed, purchase snow removal equipment, and install six deicer tanks at one of its maintenance facilities. The project is located at the City's "Ranch Facility" maintenance yard, 5200 N. Florida Street, Spokane, Washington (see Appendix A, Figure 1 Site Location Map). The project is located in the SE quarter of Section 34, Township 26N, Range 43E (latitude 47.705278, longitude -117.350556).

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Part 1500 through 1508) direct FEMA and other federal agencies to take into consideration the environmental consequences of proposed federally funded projects.

The CEQ and FEMA regulations (44 CFR Section 10) that implement NEPA require NEPA documents to be concise, focus on the issues relevant to the project, and exclude extraneous background data and discussion of subjects that are not relevant or would duplicate analyses already provided to the public. Accordingly, the following subjects are not evaluated in detail in this EA for the following reasons:

Subject	Analysis
Air Quality	Construction related dust would be minor as the site is already in an industrial yard that has been cleared and leveled. Minor amounts of dust and vehicle and equipment emissions are anticipated. Impacts would be temporary and minor considering the limited construction required for a pole building. Operational impacts would be unchanged from current conditions. The project site is not in a nonattainment area.
Coastal Zone Management Act	The proposed project, located in Spokane County, is not in a coastal county as defined by the Washington Coastal Zone Management Program.
Fish and Wildlife	The proposed project site has been a maintenance yard with industrial facilities for many years and the site does not provide habitat for fish or wildlife. Surrounding property is also in industrial use (see photo on the cover of this EA, and Figures 1 and 2). No species or habitat is present, thus the proposed action will have no effect on either.

Geology and Soils	The site is flat, and has compacted soils. The maintenance shed would be a type of construction called a “pole building,” which does not require excavation for construction of a foundation. According to the City, the area where the shed will be placed has no known past association with processes or uses that would contaminate the soil. The deicer storage tanks will be surrounded by a containment berm, which will require 200 cubic yards of fill.
Noise	The site is an active maintenance yard in an area zoned “light industrial,” which has no noise ordinance. Significant noise impacts are not anticipated to result from construction or use of the equipment shed.
Land Use and Socioeconomics	The proposed project site is in an area zoned “light industrial,” and construction of an equipment shed would be in keeping with surrounding land uses. The proposed project is not anticipated to affect land use or socioeconomics.
Traffic	Traffic is not expected to increase or change as a result of the proposed project.
Vegetation	The existing maintenance yard is devoid of vegetation.
Visual Quality	The proposed project would not change the visual quality of the area as the maintenance shed and deicer tanks would be consistent with other uses on the site and with surrounding uses.
Water Resources	There are no water resources on or around the project site. According to the City, stormwater does not leave the site, and either infiltrates, evaporates, or collects on site if there is an unusually heavy rainfall.

The purpose of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1973 (Stafford Act), as amended, is to provide a wide range of federal assistance for states and local governments significantly impacted by disasters or emergencies or both. The purpose of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) Grant Program is to provide assistance to State, Tribal and local governments, and certain types of Private Nonprofit organizations so that communities can quickly respond to and recover from major disasters or emergencies declared by the President. Through the PA Program, FEMA provides supplemental Federal disaster grant assistance for debris removal, emergency protective measures, and the repair, restoration, reconstruction, or replacement of disaster-damaged or destroyed publicly owned facilities and the facilities of certain Private Non-Profit (PNP) organizations.

During the disaster period of December 12, 2008 through January 5, 2009, heavy snowfall accumulated, and the weight damaged the City's fire station/horse barn. Snow and ice buildup exceeded the load bearing capacity of the roof skylight system, leading to extensive damage and partial collapse of the skylight. In addition, a paint shed was also damaged by the weight of snow and ice.

The City is responsible for clearing snow for public access and safety on sidewalks in about 100 locations as well as for deicing 850 arterial lane miles with deicer trucks, and for sanding 1,460 residential lane miles of hills and intersections. The City has a program that requires sidewalks to be cleared within 24 hours of the end of a storm. In lieu of repair of the two damaged facilities, the City is electing to use federal assistance funds to construct an equipment/machine shed to protect equipment from the elements, purchase snow removal equipment, and purchase deicer tanks.

The addition of one sander, one deicer truck, and 63,000 gallons of deicer storage capacity would significantly improve the City's ability to respond to future snow emergencies. The deicer storage is needed to shorten the City's response time during ice events and to prevent running low on materials.

The need for the FEMA action is to provide funds to the City so it can meet its responsibility for snow removal, and provide protection for its equipment by constructing a shed, thus extending the equipment's serviceable life.

The Proposed Action is an Alternate Project under the PA Program, which involves applying the funds to an alternate action that benefits the public. The City has chosen to not use funds for repair of the two damaged facilities, and to use those funds for this Proposed Action

Alternatives, Affected Environment, Environmental Consequences

This section addresses the No Action and Proposed (or Preferred) Action alternatives. The purpose for identifying and addressing action alternatives is to allow the decisionmaker to consider options for meeting a proposal's objectives that have less environmental impacts. In the case of this Proposed Action, however, there is no need to identify other action alternatives such as locating the equipment/machine shed elsewhere because construction of the equipment shed in the existing maintenance yard would have little to no environmental impact.

ALTERNATIVE 1 – NO ACTION

The No Action Alternative is required by the CEQ regulations to be included in the analysis, serves to provide a baseline of existing conditions and current impacts to resources in the project area, and is used to compare and contrast the impacts to resources of the other (action) alternatives.

Under the No Action alternative, FEMA would not provide funding for the construction of the equipment shed, purchase of snow removal equipment, and installation of deicer tanks. The City's objectives under this proposal would not be met under the No Action alternative, unless and until the City obtained funding from another source.

ALTERNATIVE 2 – PROPOSED ACTION (THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE)

The alternate project consists of three components: construction of an equipment shed, purchase of snow removal equipment, and installation of deicer tanks at the Ranch Facility Maintenance Yard (9.76 acres in size), which the City has owned since 1993. Prior to the City's acquisition of the maintenance yard, it was a maintenance facility for JAFCO commercial trucking. The City currently uses the maintenance yard for storage of salt, sand, and liquid deicer. The yard is also used for ongoing temporary storage of gravel, grindings, rock, dirt, street sweepings, cold mix, tree debris, leaves, garbage, jersey barriers, traffic control devices, street lighting poles, guard rail, striping paint, snow plows and seasonal equipment, and paver brick.

In addition, the yard is used for commercial drivers licensing, grading operation and snow plow operation.

Since acquisition of the property, the City has added a deicer fill station, street striping paint building, street sweeper washout hydrant, privacy berm around the perimeter with landscape sprinkler system, perimeter lighting, and 3-phase power for a rock shaker asphalt recycling operation. The maintenance yard has water, sewer, and power on site, and no additional utilities will be required for the proposed project.

The area where the shed is proposed to be constructed has been used for outside storage since the City purchased the property.

Alternatives, Affected Environment, Environmental Consequences

Equipment shed – The site is flat, and no excavation or fill would be required to construct the equipment shed. The shed would be 96’6” wide, 30’ deep, and 14’ tall constructed from wood pole and steel sheeting. The floor of the shed would be gravel. Construction would be expected to be completed within 40 days.

The construction contract stipulations will require the successful bidder (contractor) to implement best management practices (BMPs) such as for stormwater control and management during construction.

Purchase of snow removal equipment - one sander, one deicer truck and deicer tanks.

Deicer tanks – Six deicer storage tanks would be installed at the south end of the maintenance yard (see Figure 2) The storage area, which is flat and requires limited site preparation, would be 45’ by 80’, to hold the storage tanks in a lined (impervious) and bermed containment area. Plumbing would be routed to the City’s existing pumping station. The deicer storage would be located next to an existing deicer storage area. The new storage area will be permitted through the Spokane Fire Department. The storage area would be constructed within 30 days.

Alternatives, Affected Environment, Environmental Consequences

This section discusses the applicable resource areas and Presidential Executive Orders. For all resource areas addressed in this section, the No Action Alternative, under which FEMA would not provide funding for the project, would mean that no project-related construction impacts to those resources would occur, and any on-going environmental impacts would continue.

HISTORIC, ARCHAEOLOGICAL, AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

Federal undertakings (such as funding and permitting) require review and compliance with provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The project area is located in the Okanogan Highlands physiographic province which was covered by the Cordilleran ice sheet during the Quaternary (WA DNR nd:13-14). The National Resource Conversation Service Web Soil Survey identifies one soil series within the project area, Garrison gravelly loam. A brief culture history of the prehistoric periods documented for Eastern Washington follows which is adapted from Cooper (2007:4-5). Prehistory in Eastern Washington is commonly divided into five cultural periods. Period IA (12,500-11,000 BP) and IB (11,000-7000 BP) the earliest post-glacial inhabitants of the area utilized stone tools to acquire and process terrestrial resources. In Period II (6500-3500 BP) adaptations toward plant processing are first documented. Group sizes remain small and local inhabitants are likely mobile, taking advantage of many resources. During Period III (3500-300 BP) increased sedentism is evident through the use of pit houses. Settlements during this period are commonly along river confluences, floodplains, islands and rapids and there is a growing reliance upon aquatic resources. The Early Modern phase (300 BP - contact) is differentiated from earlier periods by the introduction of the horse and encroaching Euro-American expansion.

Early Euro-American settlers came into eastern Washington as part of the ever expanding fur trade during the early nineteenth century. By the mid-nineteenth century several conflicts occurred between the local Indian populations and the military. As these conflicts began to end, settlement of the region increased. In 1881 and 1919 railroads began to feed supplies to the area increasing commerce and allowing the local farmers to ship products to distant cities.

Ground disturbance from the proposed action would be minimal as a gravel pad will be laid for the floor of the shed and the building will be a simple pole building construction. The APE is restricted to the area where construction will occur. The APE, as well as the surrounding maintenance yard, is likely to have experienced significant levels of disturbance related to its function and use. Additionally, on-site utilities are preexisting and connection would result in minor ground disturbance.

Alternatives, Affected Environment, Environmental Consequences

A search of the records maintained by the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) revealed two historic period sites within a 1-mi radius of the APE. No documented prehistoric archaeological sites were identified within this same radius. No historic properties eligible or included on the National Register of Historic Places are located within or adjacent to the APE. The Statewide Predictive Model layer available within Washington Information System for Architectural and Archaeological Records and Data (WISAARD) database shows this area to have a high risk of containing archaeological deposits. However, because of the likelihood of ground disturbance within the maintenance yard and the limited impact the construction the shed will have, it is unlikely that archaeological resources are present or will be disturbed within the APE. Based on the lack of historic properties within the APE, the likely past disturbance of local soils, and the minimal ground disturbing activities associated with the undertaking FEMA has made a determination of No Historic Properties Affected as outlined in 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1). The Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) concurred with these findings in a letter dated January 3, 2012 (see Appendix B).

SOCIOECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (EO 12898)

Executive Order (EO) 12898, Environmental Justice, directs federal agencies to identify and address, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations in the U.S. resulting from federal programs, policies, and activities. The proposed project, to construct an equipment shed and install deicer tanks in a maintenance yard that has been used for that purpose for many years, in an area zoned light industrial and surrounded by industrial uses, would have no effect on minority or low-income populations.

FLOODPLAINS (EO 11988) AND WETLANDS (EO 11990)

EO 11988 (Floodplains) requires federal agencies to reduce the risk of flood loss, minimize the impact on human health, safety, and welfare, and restore the natural and beneficial values served by floodplains. Under FEMA's implementing regulations at 44 CFR Part 9, FEMA must evaluate the potential effects of any actions it may take in a floodplain and consider alternatives to avoid adverse effects. Similarly, EO 11990 (Wetlands) requires that federal agencies take action to minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands, and to preserve and enhance the natural and beneficial effects of wetlands. Federal agencies, in planning their actions, are required to consider alternatives to wetland sites and limit potential damage if an activity

Alternatives, Affected Environment, Environmental Consequences

affecting a wetland cannot be avoided. Federal agencies are also required under 44 CFR Part 9 to provide public notice and review of plans for actions in floodplains and wetlands.

The Flood Panel map 53063C0555D dated 7/6/2010 shows the project area as being in Zone X, an area having low probability (less than 2%) for flooding. The proposed project is not in a designated floodplain and would not have an adverse effect on a floodplain, nor would a floodplain affect the proposed project.

The site does not have wetlands, nor would any wetlands be indirectly affected by placing an equipment shed in the City's maintenance yard.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Cumulative effects or impacts are defined as “the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions” (40 CFR 1508.7). Cumulative effects are determined by combining the effects of an action with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions.

The Proposed Action, would have a negligible contribution of noise and dust from equipment and vehicle emissions during construction or operations, and would not result in a measurable contribution to cumulative impacts on air quality, to greenhouse gases.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

FEMA is the lead federal agency for conducting the NEPA compliance process prior to deciding whether to fund the proposed creek restoration project. As the lead agency, FEMA expedites the preparation and review of NEPA documents, responds to any public comments, meets the spirit and intent of NEPA, and complies with all NEPA provisions.

A public notice and Draft EA were sent to a list of recipients provided by the City and to potentially affected tribes for a 30-day review period. The public notice identified the action, location of the proposed site, and how to provide comments. One comment was received from the Spokane Tribe of Indians stating that no cultural resources were identified for the project area and requesting an inadvertent discovery clause be included in the project approval conditions. Because the equipment shed is proposed to be constructed in an existing maintenance yard, surrounded by similar industrial uses, the decision was made to not publish a notice in a local newspaper.

Preparers, Agencies and Persons Consulted & References

LIST OF PREPARERS

Mark Eberlein, FEMA, Region X, Regional Environmental Officer
Diori Kreske, FEMA, Region X, Environmental Advisor
Aaron Fogel, FEMA Archaeologist

AGENCIES AND PERSONS CONSULTED

Tribes

Coeur d'Alene Tribe: Chief Allan, Chairman; Jill Wagner, THPO
Kalispel Tribe of Indians: Glen Nenema, Chairperson; Kevin Lyons, Cultural Resources
Program Manager
Spokane Tribe: Greg Abrahamson, Chairperson; Randy Abrahamson, THPO

City of Spokane, Street Department

Andy Schenk, Operations Engineer

Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

Allyson, Brooks, PhD, State Historic Preservation Officer
Robert Whitlam, PhD, State Archaeologist

Washington Emergency Management Division

Gary Urbas, Deputy State Coordinating Officer
Jon Holmes, Public Assistance Coordinator

REFERENCES

Cooper, Jason B. 2007. Addendum Cultural Resources Survey Report Bigelow Gulch/Forker Road Urban Connector Project. Submitted to Spokane County Public Works.

Council on Environmental Quality. 2010. Memorandum for Heads of Federal Departments and Agencies. Draft NEPA Guidance on Consideration of the Effects of Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Emissions. 12 p.

Washington Department of Natural Resources. no date. Environmental Setting of Eastern Washington. http://www.dnr.wa.gov/Publications/lm_ess_eog_eco_enviro_setting.pdf

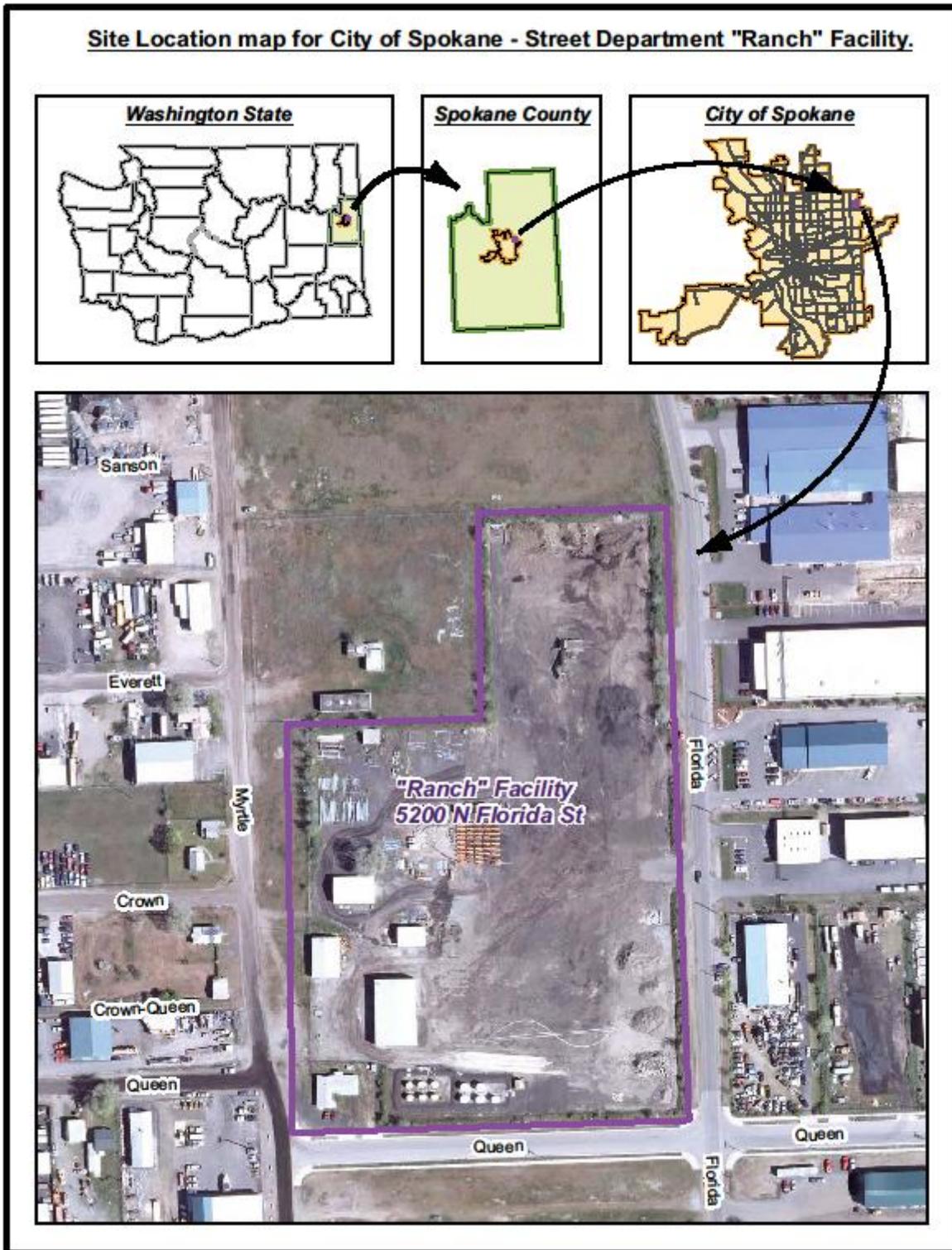


Figure 1



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORIC PRESERVATION

1063 S. Capitol Way, Suite 106 • Olympia, Washington 98501
Mailing address: PO Box 48343 • Olympia, Washington 98504-8343
(360) 586-3065 • Fax Number (360) 586-3067 • Website: www.dahp.wa.gov

January 3, 2012

Mr. Mark G. Eberlein
FEMA – Region X
130 – 228th Street SW
Bothell, Washington 98021-9796

RE: City of Spokane Machine Shed Project
FEMA -1825-DR-WA, PW946.1
Log No: 010312-03-FEMA

Dear Mr. Eberlein:

Thank you for contacting our Department. We have reviewed the material you provided for the proposed City of Spokane Machine Shed Project, Spokane County, Washington.

We concur with your Determination of No Historic Properties Affected.

We would appreciate receiving any correspondence or comments from concerned tribes or other parties that you receive as you consult under the requirements of 36CFR800.4(a)(4).

In the event that archaeological or historic materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity must stop, the area secured, and the concerned tribes and this department notified.

These comments are based on the information available at the time of this review and on the behalf of the State Historic Preservation Officer in conformance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations 36CFR800. Should additional information become available, our assessment may be revised. Thank you for the opportunity to comment and a copy of these comments should be included in subsequent environmental documents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rob Whitlam".

Robert G. Whitlam, Ph.D.
State Archaeologist
(360) 586-3080
email: rob.whitlam@dahp.wa.gov



The following conditions and measures shall be followed:

- The applicants shall obtain all required local, state, and federal permits and approvals prior to implementing the Proposed Action Alternative and comply with any and all conditions imposed.
- The applicant is responsible for selecting, implementing, monitoring, and maintaining best management practices to control erosion and sediment, reduce spills and pollution.
- Any change to the approved scope of work will require re-evaluation for compliance with NEPA and other laws and Executive Orders.
- In the event that archaeological or historic materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity shall be discontinued, the area secured, and the State and FEMA notified.

PUBLIC NOTICE**Federal Emergency Management Agency
Draft Environmental Assessment
Construct Equipment Shed and Install Deicer Tanks
City of Spokane Street Department, Spokane County, WA**

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) proposes to provide partial funding to the City of Spokane Street Department (City) for an alternate project to construct an equipment shed on an existing City-owned maintenance yard in the City of Spokane, Washington.

FEMA prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed project pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and FEMA's implementing regulations. The EA evaluates alternatives and compliance with applicable environmental laws and Executive Orders including the 11988 (Floodplain Management), 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), and 12898 (Environmental Justice). The alternatives evaluated in the EA are the (1) No Action, (2) Proposed Action (or Preferred Alternative) for funding to the City to construct a shed to protect equipment from the elements and extend their service life.

The project is located in an area zoned for light industrial use in the City of Spokane. The maintenance yard is located within the SE quarter of Section 34, Township 26N, Range 43E (latitude 47.705278, longitude -117.350556).

The Draft EA is available for viewing at the following location:

FEMA website:

<http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region10.shtm>

If no substantive issues are identified during the comment period, FEMA will finalize the EA, issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and fund the project. The Final EA and FONSI will be available for viewing at the FEMA website noted above. Unless substantive comments are received, FEMA will not publish another notice for this project. Please submit your written comments to FEMA Region X Environmental Officer, Mark Eberlein, no later than 5 p.m. on April 13, 2012. Comments can be:

1. Mailed: 130 228th Street SW, Bothell, Washington 98021
2. Faxed: 425-487-4613
3. E-mailed: mark.eberlein@fema.dhs.gov